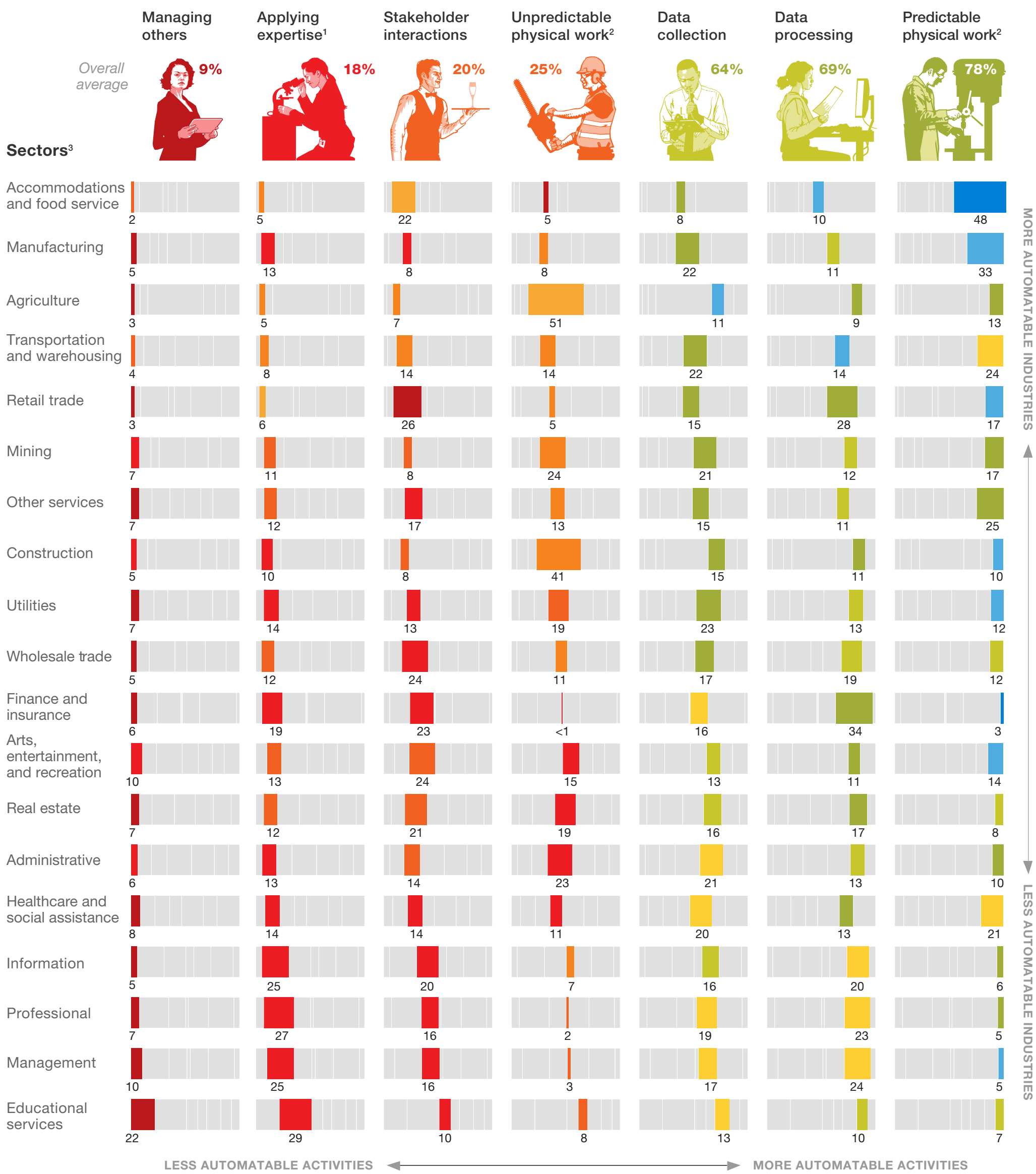
The technical potential for automation in the US

Many types of activities in industry sectors have the technical potential to be automated, but that potential varies significantly across activities.

Technical feasibility: % of time spent on activities that can be automated by adapting currently demonstrated technology

0 — 50 — 100



In practice, automation will depend on more than just technical feasibility. Five factors are involved: technical feasibility; costs to automate; the relative scarcity, skills, and cost of workers who might otherwise do the activity; benefits (eg, superior performance) of automation beyond labor-cost substitution; and regulatory and social-acceptance considerations.

[1]Applying expertise to decision making, planning, and creative tasks.
[2]Unpredictable physical work (physical activities and the operation of machinery) is performed in unpredictable environments, while in predictable physical work, the environments are predictable.
[3]**Agriculture** includes forestry, fishing, and hunting; **other services** excludes federal-, state-, and local-government services; **real estate** includes rental and leasing; **administrative** includes administrative support and government administration; **healthcare and social assistance** includes private, state-government, and local-government hospitals; **professional** includes scientific and technical services; **educational services** includes private, state-government, and local-government schools.